

APPENDIX B

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

As summarized in Chapter II of this report, fish advisory data for each state are collected in a national data base. The information in the data base available for use in this report was current through 1995 (U.S. EPA 1996b). For each advisory, the data base contains information such as waterbody name, waterbody type (e.g., estuary, Great Lake, river), pollutant name, fish species, population targeted by the advisory (called advisory type in this report), advisory status (e.g., active), and a state contact name and telephone number. The data base does not, however, contain information on the levels of pollutants in fish or the benchmark levels set by a particular state for each advisory type.

For this report, EPA reviewed the data base for any active fish advisories related to the 15 Great Waters pollutants of concern in the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, Chesapeake Bay, and several coastal waters.¹ (The data base does not include in its list of pollutants three of the Great Waters pollutants of concern: α -HCH, nitrogen, and TCDF (furans).) Other criteria used to select fish advisory data for this report include:

- This report includes advisory data only for those Great Waters pollutants of concern listed by name in the data base. For example, "metals" is a pollutant included in the data base, but this report includes advisories associated only with specific listings for the metals "cadmium," "lead," and "mercury."
- For the Great Lakes, only advisories for which the waterbody type was designated in the data base as "Great Lake" are included. For example, the waterbody type for an entire Great Lake (e.g., Lake Huron) and for portions of the lake (e.g., Saginaw Bay) are designated as "Great Lake," as are the major Great Lakes connecting channels (e.g., Detroit River). Note, however, that the tables of fish consumption advisories in Section II.A of this report contain only lakewide advisories. Table B-1, below, includes the advisories for tributaries or portions of the waterbody that were designated as "Great Lake," as well as lakewide advisories.
- The advisories for coastal waters represent the advisories as they are identified in the data base. Therefore, advisories for some coastal waters represent the entire waterbody (e.g., Tampa Bay), while others represent smaller estuaries or portions of the waterbody (e.g., Baltimore Harbor). Table B-1 provides details on the waterbodies that represent the coastal water advisories. The coastal waters for which advisory data are presented in this report represent only a small sample of coastal waters for which there are fish consumption advisories.
- This report does not include statewide advisories. Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island all have issued statewide advisories, which are reported in the data base, that may affect the Great Waters (e.g., Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island).

¹ The data base contains fish advisory data for numerous other pollutants and several pollutant mixtures (e.g., metals, organic compounds, pesticides) other than the Great Waters pollutants of concern. In addition, all U.S. waterbodies in which there are fish advisories are included in the data base, not only the Great Waters.

Section II.A of this report discusses the five main types of advisories included in the fish advisory data base. Data on informational health advisories, no-kill zones, and commercial fishing bans are summarized in Chapter II and are not repeated in this appendix. This appendix provides detailed information on the advisories to limit fish consumption and those to restrict fish consumption.

This detailed fish consumption advisory information is summarized in Table B-1 for the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, Chesapeake Bay, and other selected coastal waters. This information was used to develop the fish consumption advisory tables in Section II.A of this report. For each waterbody, Table B-1 presents the state issuing the advisory, the relevant Great Waters pollutants of concern, the fish species affected by the advisory, and the advisory type. The two types of fish consumption advisories (limit fish consumption and restrict fish consumption) are issued for two different populations (the general population and subpopulations potentially at risk), resulting in four categories of fish consumption advisories:

- Advisories to subpopulations potentially at risk to restrict the size and frequency of meals of particular species (RSP);
- Advisories to the general population to restrict the size and frequency of meals of particular species (RGP);
- Advisories to subpopulations potentially at risk (e.g., pregnant or nursing women, small children) to not consume particular species (NCSP); and
- Advisories to the general population to not consume particular species (NCGP).

For the most recent fish advisory data for waterbodies in a particular state or for more details on how the state sets its advisories, the state office responsible for coordinating the fish advisory program in that state should be contacted.

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters

Waterbody^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type^b
GREAT LAKES			
Lake Erie			
MI	PCBs	Carp, catfish	NCGP
OH	PCBs	Carp, channel catfish, chinook salmon > 19", coho salmon, freshwater drum, lake trout, smallmouth bass, steelhead trout, walleye, white bass, white perch	RGP
PA	Chlordane, PCBs	Carp, channel catfish, lake trout	NCGP
Maumee Bay (OH)	PCBs	Channel catfish Carp	NCGP RGP

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters (continued)

Waterbody^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type^b
Lake Huron			
MI	Chlordane, dioxins	Lake trout > 22" Lake trout < 22"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Lake trout > 22" Brown trout > 21", lake trout	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Saginaw Bay (MI)	Chlordane	Lake trout > 22"	NCGP
	Dioxins	Lake trout > 22"	NCGP, NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Carp, channel catfish, lake trout > 22" Brown trout > 21", lake trout > 22"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Lake Michigan			
IL	Chlordane, PCBs	Brown trout > 23", chinook salmon > 32", lake trout > 23" Brown trout < 23", chinook salmon 21-32", coho salmon > 26", lake trout 20-23"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
IN	PCBs	Brown trout > 23", carp, catfish, chinook salmon > 32", lake trout > 23" Brown trout < 23", chinook salmon 21-32", coho salmon > 26", lake trout 20-23"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
MI	Chlordane	Lake trout > 23", lake whitefish > 23" Lake trout 20-25"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
	Mercury	Walleye > 22"	RGP, RSP
	PCBs	Brown trout > 23", carp, channel catfish Lake trout > 23"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
WI	Chlordane	Lake trout > 23" Lake trout 20-23"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Brown trout > 23", carp, catfish, chinook salmon > 32", lake trout > 23" Brown trout < 23", chinook salmon 21-32", coho salmon > 26", lake trout 20-23"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Green Bay (MI)	PCBs	Brook trout > 15", brown trout > 21", carp, northern pike > 28", rainbow trout > 22", splake trout > 20", sturgeon, walleye > 20", white bass Brown trout < 21", splake trout < 20"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Green Bay (WI)	PCBs	Brook trout > 15", brown trout > 12", carp, chinook salmon > 25", northern pike > 28", rainbow trout > 22", splake trout > 16", walleye > 20", white bass Splake trout < 16"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Little Bay de Ngoc (MI)	Mercury	Walleye > 22"	RGP, RSP
	PCBs	Brown trout > 23", carp, channel catfish Lake trout > 23", longnose sucker > 16"	NCGP NCSP, RGP

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters (continued)

Waterbody^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type^b
Lake Michigan (continued)			
Old North Harbor, Waukegan (IL)	Chlordane, PCBs	Alewife, carp	NCGP
Lake Ontario			
NY	Dioxins, PCBs	American eel, carp, channel catfish, chinook salmon, lake trout, white perch	NCGP, NCSP
		Brown trout > 20", coho salmon > 21", rainbow trout > 25"	NCGP
		Brown trout, coho salmon, rainbow trout, white sucker	NCSP
		Brown trout < 20", coho salmon < 21", rainbow trout < 25", white perch, white sucker	RGP
Irondequoit Bay (NY)	PCBs	Carp	NCGP, NCSP
Lake Superior			
MI	Chlordane, mercury, toxaphene	Ciscowet > 18"	NCGP
	PCBs	Ciscowet > 18", lake trout > 30" Lake trout 20-30"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
MN	PCBs	Ciscowet > 20" Brown trout, chinook salmon, coho salmon, ciscowet < 20", lake herring, lake trout, lake whitefish, rainbow trout	NCGP RGP
WI	Chlordane	Ciscowet > 20"	NCGP
	Mercury	Walleye 26-30" Walleye 18-26" Walleye < 18"	NCGP NCSP, RGP RSP
	PCBs	Ciscowet > 20", lake trout > 30"	NCGP
Chequamegon Waters (WI)	Mercury	Largemouth bass 15-18" Northern pike > 30" Largemouth bass < 15", northern pike < 30"	NCGP NCSP, RGP RSP
Thunder Bay (MI)	Chlordane, dioxins	Lake trout > 22" Lake trout < 22"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Lake trout > 22" Brown trout > 21", carp, lake trout < 22"	NCGP NCSP, RGP

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters (continued)

Waterbody ^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type ^b
Connecting Channels			
Detroit River (MI)	Mercury	Freshwater drum > 14"	RGP, RSP
	PCBs	Carp	NCGP
Lake St. Clair (MI)	Mercury	Muskellunge, sturgeon Bluegill sunfish > 8", brown bullhead catfish > 14", carpsucker > 18", freshwater drum > 14", largemouth bass, northern pike > 26", rock bass > 8", smallmouth bass > 18", walleye > 20", white bass > 13", white perch > 10"	NCGP RGP, RSP
	PCBs	Channel catfish > 22" Carp > 22"	NCGP NCSP, RGP
Niagara River (NY)	Dioxins, PCBs	American eel, carp, channel catfish, chinook salmon, lake trout, white perch Brown trout > 20", coho salmon > 21", rainbow trout > 25" Brown trout, coho salmon, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, white sucker Brown trout < 20", coho salmon < 21", rainbow trout < 25", smallmouth bass, white sucker	NCGP, NCSP NCGP NCSP RGP
	PCBs	Carp	RGP
St. Clair River (MI)	Mercury	Freshwater drum > 14"	RGP, RSP
	PCBs	Carp > 21", gizzard shad > 10"	NCSP, RGP
St. Lawrence River (NY)	Dioxins, PCBs	American eel, carp, channel catfish, chinook salmon, lake trout Brown trout > 20", coho salmon > 21", rainbow trout > 25" Brown trout, coho salmon, rainbow trout White perch Brown trout < 20", coho salmon < 21", rainbow trout < 25"	NCGP, NCSP NCGP NCSP NCSP, RGP RGP
	PCBs	Fish	NCGP, NCSP
St. Mary's River (MI)	Mercury	Walleye > 19"	RGP, RSP
LAKE CHAMPLAIN			
NY	Mercury	Walleye > 19"	NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Brown bullhead, eel, lake trout > 25", yellow perch	NCSP, RGP
VT	Mercury	Walleye	NCSP, RGP
	PCBs	Lake trout > 25"	NCSP, RGP

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters (continued)

Waterbody^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type^b
SELECTED COASTAL WATERS			
Chesapeake Bay			
Anacostia River/ Potomac River (DC)	Chlordane, PCBs	American eel, carp, channel catfish	RGP
Back River (MD)	Chlordane	American eel, channel catfish	RGP
Baltimore Harbor (MD)			
Lake Roland, Jones Falls (MD)	Chlordane	Black crappie, carp	RGP
Delaware Bay			
Delaware Estuary (DE)	PCBs	Channel catfish, striped bass, white catfish, white perch	NCGP
		Channel catfish, striped bass, white catfish	RGP, RSP
Delaware River and Delaware Estuary (PA)	Chlordane, PCBs	American eel, channel catfish, white perch	NCGP
Galveston Bay			
Houston Ship Channel (TX)	Dioxins	Blue crab, catfish	NCSP, RGP
Long Island Sound			
CT	PCBs	Bluefish > 25", striped bass	NCSP, RGP
NY	Chlordane	Striped bass	RGP
	PCBs	Striped bass	NCGP
NY/NJ Harbor			
Arthur Kill (NJ), Kill van Kull (NJ)	Dioxins	Blue crab, striped bass	NCGP, NCSP
	PCBs	American eel, bluefish > 24" > 6 lbs, striped bass, white catfish, white perch	NCSP, RGP
Newark Bay (NJ)	Dioxins	Blue crab, striped bass Bluefish > 24" > 6 lbs, striped bass	NCGP, NCSP RGP
	PCBs	White catfish, white perch Bluefish > 24" > 6 lbs, striped bass	NCSP, RGP NCSP
Raritan Bay (NJ), Raritan River (NJ), Sandy Hook Bay (NJ)	Dioxins	Blue crab	RGP, RSP
	PCBs	American eel, bluefish > 24" > 6 lbs, striped bass, white catfish, white perch	NCSP, RGP
Tidal Passaic River (NJ)	Dioxins	Crustaceans, fish, shellfish	NCGP, NCSP
	PCBs	Striped bass American eel, bluefish > 23" > 6 lbs, white catfish, white perch	NCGP, NCSP NCSP, RGP

TABLE B-1
Fish Consumption Advisories in the Great Waters (continued)

Waterbody^a	Great Waters Pollutant of Concern	Fish Species	Advisory Type^b
San Francisco Bay			
San Francisco Bay delta region (CA)	Dioxins, DDT, mercury, PCBs	Striped bass > 35" Sharks > 24", striped bass > 27" Fish except anchovy, herring, salmon, and smelt	NCGP NCSP RGP, RSP
Tampa Bay (FL)	Mercury	Crevalle jack, gafftop sail catfish, ladyfish, spanish mackerel	RGP, RSP

^a For the Great Lakes, the advisories are listed first by lakewide advisories, in alphabetical order by state, followed by portions of the waterbody and major tributaries that were designated in the data base as "Great Lake." Lake Champlain advisories are all lakewide. For coastal waters, including Chesapeake Bay, the advisories are presented by how the coastal water was designated in the data base, which may be by full name or by waterbody portion.

^b NCGP = advises against consumption by the general population

NCSP = advises against consumption by subpopulations potentially at risk (e.g., pregnant or nursing women, small children)

RGP = advises the general population to restrict size and frequency of meals of the particular species

RSP = advises subpopulations potentially at risk to restrict size and frequency of meals of the particular species

Source: U.S. EPA 1996b.